

Message Text

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70

ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 OIC-04

AEC-11 ACDA-19 OMB-01 EB-11 RSR-01 /166 W

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R 061812 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8183

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYJAVIK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D N T I A L ROME 2748

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: MBFR: ITALIAN PAPER AT EC POLITICAL COUNCIL MEETING

GENEVA FOR USDEL SALT II

VIENNA FOR USREP MBFR

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REFERENCE: ROME A. 2539 (NOTAL); B. STATE 53671; C. USNATO 1626

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ITALIAN INTRODUCTION OF MBFR INTO EC POLITICAL COUNCIL DISCUSSION MARCH 30 WAS AIMED PRINCIPALLY AT DEVELOPING EUROPEAN PRESSURE TO HEAD OFF POSSIBLE MOVE BY GERMANS AND BELGIANS TO PUSH FOR EARLY REDUCTIONS OF INDIGENOUS AS WELL AS STATIONED FORCES. ITALIAN DEFINITION OF STATIONED FORCES REFINED TO INCLUDE ONLY U. S. AND SOVIET TROOPS. SECONDARY PURPOSE BEHIND ITALIAN INITIATIVE WAS TO TRY TO DRAW FRENCH INTO DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

2. FONOFF DISARMAMENT OFFICE DIRECTOR (PETRIGNANI), WHO PREPARED PAPER ON MBFR WHICH POLITICAL DIR/ GEN DUCCI CIRCULATED AT MARCH 30 PC MEETING, HAS PROVIDED US WITH BACKGROUND ON IN EUROPE WHILE ALL OTHER FORCES ARE INDIGENOUS EUROPEAN COMPONENTS. PETRIGNANI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE WEST MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY IN PROMOTING SUCH A FORMULA BUT INSISTED THAT IT IS A POSITION WHICH THE WEST SHOULD ADOPT TO HOLD MBFR DAMAGE TO A MINIMUM AND TO MAINTAIN INTEGRITY OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORT.

5. ADDITIONAL MOTIVE BEHIND ITALIAN INITIATIVE IN AIRING MBFR IN EC CONTEXT, ACCORDING PETRIGNANI, IS DESIRE TO TRY TO DRAW FRENCH INTO DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE. FRENCH WILL CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO ENTER INTO SUCH DISCUSSIONS AS LONG AS THEY ARE CONSIDERED IN NATO, HE ARGUED, AND EC PROVIDES FORUM IN WHICH ITALIANS AND OTHERS CAN HOPE TO BRING ABOUT GRADUAL REORIENTATION OF FRENCH THINKING ON DEFENSE MATTERS IN DIRECTION OF EUROPEAN VIEWPOINT.

6. THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION PETRIGNANI STRESSED CONVICTION AT SEVERAL POINTS THAT ITALIAN VIEWS ON NEGOTIATION OF STATIONED FORCES ONLY WAS IN GENERAL HARMONY WITH U. S. VIEWS AND GOI INITIATIVE IN EC POLITICAL COMMUNITY WAS AIMED SOLELY AT IMPRESSING ON RECALCITRANT EUROPEAN ALLIES FACT THAT MBFR REDUCTION OF INDIGENOUS FORCES COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT EUROPEAN UNITY. HE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT MBFR IS ATLANTIC CONCERN FOR WHICH RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH NATO AND SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IRRATIONAL TO PRETEND OTHERWISE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE DANGER OF EC DISCUSSIONS SPREADING INTO OTHER MBFR ASPECTS, EITHER POLITICAL OR MILITARY, HE REPLIED THAT HE SAW LITTLE RISK OF THIS HAPPENING AS FRENCH AND OTHERS WOULD SURELY APPLY THE BRAKES.

7. IN CLOSING, PETRIGNANI SAID THAT HIS OFFICE WOULD BE PREPARING THE MBFR PAPER FOR DISCUSSION AT THE APRIL 25 PC MEETING AND WOULD SHARE IT WITH US AS SOON AS IT IS IN FINAL FORM. VOLPE

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TAGS: PFOR, PARM, EEC, IT
To: STATE INFO ANKARA
ATHENS
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
THE HAGUE
LISBON

LONDON
LUXEMBOURG
OSLO
OTTAWA
PARIS
REYJAVIK
VIENNA
NATO
GENEVA
EC BRUSSELS

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